

REMARKS

Pending claims

Through this Amendment, claims 4 and 11 have been canceled and claims 1, 7, and 13 have been amended to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the invention. New claims 14-17 have been added. These amendments do not contain new matter and are fully supported by the specification. After these amendments are entered, seventeen (17) claims (claims 1-17) are pending.

Drawings

A Replacement sheet is submitted herewith to correct drawings in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121(d). In the Replacement Sheet, Figure 3A is designated by a legend such as –Prior Art—as suggested by the examiner.

Rejection of Claims under 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 2, and 5 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Payor et al. The rejection is overcome by incorporation of the limitations of the objected but allowable claim 4 into independent claim 1. As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal this rejection over claims 1, 2, and 5.

Claims 7, 9, 10, and 12-14 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Blum et al. The rejection is overcome by incorporation of the limitations of the objected but allowable claim 11 into independent claim 7. As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal this rejection over claims 7, 9, 10, and 12-14.

Rejection of Claims under 35 USC §103

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Payor et al. in view of Leiberman et al. Because claim 3 depends upon independent claim 1 which is allowable as discussed above, the dependent claim is narrower in scope and therefore is allowable. As such, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Payor et al. in view of Gladys et al. Because claim 6 depends upon independent claim 1 which is allowable as discussed above, the dependent claim is narrower in scope and therefore is allowable. As such, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

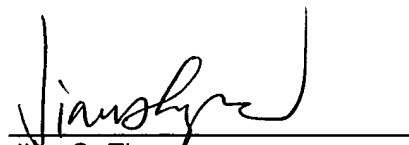
Claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Blum et al. in view of Gladly et al. Because claim 8 depends upon independent claim 1 which is allowable as discussed above, the dependent claim is narrower in scope and therefore is allowable. As such, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing and in conclusion, Applicants submit that the pending claims are now in conditions for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set-forth in the Office Action.

Should the Examiner believe that a discussion with Applicants' representative would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned. Please address all correspondence to Robert Gorman, CIBA Vision, Patent Department, 11460 Johns Creek Parkway, Duluth, GA 30097. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2965.

Respectfully submitted,


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